

# DEMONSTRATING IMPROVEMENTS IN DIABETES CARE

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## BROADCAST

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness among US adults aged 20-74 years.<sup>1</sup> Because eye damage can occur without symptoms, early diagnosis of eye disease through vision screening is critical in reducing the risk of blindness among patients with diabetes.<sup>2</sup>

At the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, Inc. (IHC), the medical and community outreach programs came together in 2011 to help establish a retinal screening program as a routine part of all diabetes check-ups. As a result, nearly 70% of IHC patients received retinal screening in 2013, exceeding both the Urban Indian Health Organization (UIHO) aggregate rate of 43% and the HP2020 target of 59%.

The most recent version of the UIHI's [Urban Diabetes Care and Outcomes Summary Report](#) features success stories like that of the IHC. Specifically, the report details three UIHO diabetes programs that used diabetes audit data to identify and address needs in their clinical diabetes practices.

In addition to the IHC, the Denver Indian Health and Family Services increased rates of hepatitis B vaccination by exploring new funding sources and improving systems for patient tracking and follow-up. The Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest in Portland focused on foot care screenings, and used a mix of streamlined patient visits, provider incentives and regular data checks to increase their rates.

In addition to these program descriptions, this report uses 2009-2013 Diabetes Care and Outcomes Diabetes Audit data to summarize trends in diabetes services and clinical outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native patients with diabetes who received care at participating UIHOs. View the full report at: <http://www.uihi.org/resources/reports/>.

### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2011). National Diabetes Fact Sheet: National Estimates and General Information on Diabetes and Prediabetes in the United States. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. Indian Health Service Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention. (2011). Indian Health Diabetes Best Practice: Eye Care. Albuquerque, NM: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/diabetes/index.cfm?module=SOCEye>

